

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 3-10 and cancel claims 12-14 without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (original) A method of producing a mass culture of a rusticle consortia, comprising the steps of:
providing a growth substrate;
placing one or more samples obtained from a rusticle on the growth substrate;
placing the growth substrate with the samples thereon into a tank filled with an aqueous solution; and
controlling an environment of the aqueous solution to facilitate growth of the rusticle on the growth substrate.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1; wherein the growth substrate comprises an anodically charged metal.
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2; wherein the growth substrate comprises a ~~mild-steel~~ metal plate.
4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3; further comprising the step of embrittling the ~~mild-steel~~ metal plate.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4; wherein the step of embrittling comprises hammering the ~~steel~~ metal plate at about 3000 p.s.i. for approximately 60 minutes.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3; wherein the ~~mild-steel~~ metal plate has a chemical composition comprising at least 0.8% phosphorus, at least 1.2% sulfur, and at least 1.4% manganese.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3; further comprising the step of rolling the ~~mild-steel~~ metal plate to promote the formation of lateral pearlite deposits within the steel plate to cause a flaking form of corrosion.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1; wherein the growth substrate is formed by the geometric disposition of unlike metals.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8; wherein the unlike metals are ~~Fe and Cu~~ electrically dissimilar.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1; wherein the aqueous solution comprises water containing ~~at least five ppm of~~ oxygen and a nutrient substrate containing ~~at least 1% of~~ ferric ammonium citrate and inorganic nutrients.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10; wherein the step of controlling an environment of the aqueous solution comprises maintaining a pH level of the aqueous solution within the range of 7.4 and 8.4.

12.-14. (canceled)

16. (withdrawn) A therapeutic substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

17. (withdrawn) A therapeutic substance comprising a substance produced by a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

18. (withdrawn) An antimicrobial substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

19. (withdrawn) An antibiotic substance comprising a mass culture of a rusticle consortia produced according to claim 1.

ELECTION OF INVENTION:

Applicants provisionally elect the invention characterized by the Examiner Group I drawn to a method to produce rusticle consortia in a controlled environment and list claims 1-11 and 15 as readable on the elected invention.